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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3506
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AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
USMISSION GENEVA
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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
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ROME FOR VATICAN OFFICE
E.O. 12065: XDS-2 12/13/08 (CHAPLIN, MAXWELL) OR-M
TAGS: SHUM, AR
SUBJECT: (U) MORE FOLLOW-UP ON DISAPPEARANCES
REF: A) STATE 311377 NOTAL, B) BUENOS AIRES 10012
BEGIN SUMMARY: (C) REF A CONVEYED INFORMATION ON 21 ALLEGED DISAPPEARANCES (INCLUDING 8 CHILDREN) WHICH PREVIOUSLY HAD NOT BEEN REPORTED. AFTER CHECKING WITH A NUMBER OF SOURCES, WE UNDERSTAND THAT SEVEN OF THE ALLEGED DISAPPEARANCES (ALL REGISTERED DURING OCTOBER)
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ARE ACTUALLY IN JAIL. THE CHILDREN WHO ARE REPORTED TO HAVE DISAPPEARED WITH THEIR PARENTS ARE NOW REPORTEDLY WITH GRANDPARENTS. ONE OF THE DISAPPEARED IN SEPTEMBER, A MONTONERO, IS PROBABLY DEAD AFTER HAVING BEEN SEIZED BY SECURITY FORCES. THUS OF THE NEWLY REPORTED DISAPPEARANCES, WE ARE UNABLE TO ACCOUNT FOR ONE IN AUGUST, ONE IN SEPTEMBER AND THREE IN OCTOBER. ALL THREE OF THE OCTOBER DISAPPEARANCES ALLEGEDLY TOOK PLACE ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE MONTH AND SEEM TO INVOLVE PEOPLE WITH MONTONERO CONNECTIONS. END SUMMARY.
1. (U) THE FOLLOWING IS A CHRONOLOGICAL LISTING OF THE ALLEGED DISAPPEARANCES REPORTED TO THE DEPARTMENT RECENTLY (REF A) TOGETHER WITH INFORMATION THAT WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DEVELOP ON EACH CASE (SOME OF IT EARLIER REPORTED IN REF B). AS FAR AS WE KNOW, WITH ONE EXCEPTION (SEE BELOW) NONE OF THESE CASES WERE
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REPORTED TO LOCAL HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS.
2. (U) NORA IRENE WOLFSON, ALLEGEDLY DISAPPEARED IN BUENOS AIRES BETWEEN AUGUST 8 AND AUGUST 13. WE HAVE NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO LEARN ANYTHING ABOUT THIS DISAPPEARANCE.
3. (C) ADRIANA LESGART, ALLEGEDLY DISAPPEARED BUENOS AIRES AUGUST 12. WE WERE EARLIER TOLD THAT LESGART WAS A MONTONERO WHO WAS CAPTURED BY THE SECURITY FORCES IN SEPTEMBER. THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE CASE LEAD US TO CONCLUDE SHE IS PROBABLY DEAD. (SEE BUENOS AIRES REFTEL AND BUENOS AIRES 8660).
4. (C) EDUARDO URRETA VIZCAYA, ALLEGEDLY DISAPPEARED BUENOS AIRES SEPTEMBER 13. WE HAVE NO INFORMATION

ON URRETA VIZCAYA'S DISAPPEARANCE. HE WAS ONCE A MEMBER OF THE PRT, THE ERP'S POLITICAL BRANCE AND WAS ACCUSED OF TERRORIST ACTIVITIES IN 1965.
5. (C) HUGO VERA AND WIFE, AND OSCAR VERA AND WIFE ALL ALLEGEDLY DISAPPEARED OCTOBER 1 IN RIO NEGRO. THE VERA COUPLES ARE IN JAIL IN MENDOZA, ACCORDING TO AN ARGENTINE INTELLIGENCE SERVICE. (IN THE PAST THIS SOURCE NEVER LIED THOUGH IT HAS WITHHELD INFORMATION.) WE HEARD THIS TOO FROM AN EMBASSY SOURCE FROM MENDOZA. THEY WERE DENOUNCED AS TERRORISTS BY A RELATIVE, ACCORDING TO THE LATTER SOURCE.
6. (C) JOSE DALMOSO LOPEZ AND THREE CHILDREN, ALL ALLEGEDLY DISAPPEARED OCTOBER 1 IN RIO NEGRO. OUR SOURCE IN AN ARGENTINE INTELLIGENCE ORGANIZATION DENIES HAVING ANY INFORMATION ON THE DISAPPEARANCE OF LOPEZ, WHO ALL INFORMATION SUGGESTS IS A MONTONERO (SEE REF B). THIS SOURCE DID MAINTAIN, REPEATEDLY AND VIGOROUSLY, THAT THERE ARE NO CHILDREN HELD AS A RESULT OF THE RECENT DISAPPEARANCES. RATHER, OUR SOURCE SAID ALL THE CHILDREN HAVE BEEN PLACED WITH THEIR GRANDPARENTS. THE DENIAL OF ANY INFORMATION ON LOPEZ'S DISAPPEARANCE TOGETHER WITH THE CERTAINTY THAT HIS CHILDREN HAVE BEEN PLACED WITH THEIR GRAND-

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PARENTS WOULD APPEAR TO BE A CONTRADICTION. HOWEVER,
IN THE PAST IT HAS BEEN THE POLICY OF THIS SERVICE
OFFICIALLY TO DENY ANY KNOWLEDGE OF DISAPPEARANCES,
REGARDLESS OF THE FACTS THEY HAD AVAILABLE.
7. (C) JULIO SUAREZ, ALLEGEDLY DISAPPEARED OCTOBER 1
IN RIO NEGRO. OUR INTELLIGENCE SOURCE DENIES ANY
KNOWLEEGE OF THE DISAPPEARANCE OF SUAREZA, WHO IS
PROBABLY A MONTONERO (REF B).
8. (C) SARA SINESTRA BERMUGLIO DE MENDIZABAL AND
THREE CHILDREN, ALLEGEDLY DISAPPEARED OCTOBER 1
IN RIO NEGRO. OUR SOURCE HAS IDENTIFIED HER AS THE
WIFE OF HORACIO MENDIZABAL, A MONTONERO LEADER WHO
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WAS KILLED IN SEPTEMBER. THE SOURCE STATED THAT
HER CHILDREN ARE WITH THEIR GRANDPARENTS.
9. (U) SIGISFREDO ALBERTO AROSTEGUI VALDEZ (ALLEGEDLY
DISAPPEARED OCTOBER 10 IN BUENOS AIRES). AROSTEGUI
IS IN JAIL IN MISSIONES PROVINCE. ACCORDING TO HUMAN
RIGHTS SOURCES HERE HE WAS ARRESTED WHEN TRYING TO
RETURN TO ARGENTINA FROM BRAZIL AND CHARGED WITH
POSSESSING PROHIBITED LITERATURE -- APPARENTLY
PUBLICATIONS DEALING WITH THE POLITICAL SITUATION
IN URUGUAY PRODUCED BY URUGUAYAN REFUGEES IN BRAZIL.
THE SAME SOURCES STATED THAT AROSTEGUI WAS NEVER
"DISAPPEARED"; HIS ARREST WAS KNOWN SOON AFTER IT
TOOK PLACE, AND HE IS REPORTEDLY BEING WELL TREATED. HE WAS
AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF LOCAL HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS AND
HIS ARREST WAS REPORTED TO THEM.

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10. (C) LILIANA BERMUDEZ DE HERRERA, ALLEGEDLY DISAPPEARED OCTOBER 12 IN MENDOZA. OUR GOA SOU CE CONFIRMED OUR EARLIER REPORT (REF B) THAT SHE IS IN JAIL IN MENDOZA, CHARGED WITH BEING A MEMBER OF THE PRT-ERP.
11. (C) CHRISTINA GUILLEN (ALLEGEDLY DISAPPEARED OCTOBER 28 IN CORDOBA). OUR GOA SOURCE HAS TOLD US SHE IS IN CUSTODY IN CORDOBA. THE SAME GOA SOURCE SAID THAT GUILLEN AND HER HUSBAND HAD BEEN WANTED FOR ARREST AS MONTONEROS SINCE 1976. OUR SOURCE STATED HER CHILDREN ARE WITH GRANDPARENTS.
12. (C) COMMENT: WE WILL CONTINUE TO TRY TO VERIFY THE INFORMATION WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM THE GOA, PARTICULARLY THE ALLEGATION THAT THE 8 CHILDREN ARE
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NOW WITH THEIR GRANDPARENTS. BUT IF OUR INFORMATION IS CORRECT, AND WE BELIEVE IT PROBABLY IS, OF THE 21 CASES (INCLUDING 8 CHILDREN). SUBMITTED REF A THERE REMAIN THREE UNEXPLAINED REPORTED DISAPPEARANCES IN OCTOBER PLUS ONE IN AUGUST AND ONE IN SEPTEMBER. THE THREE REMAINING CASES IN OCTOBER ALLEGEDLY TOOK PLACE OCOTOBER 1 AND INVOLVE INDIVIDUALS WHO APPEAR TO HAVE HAD CLOSE CONNECTION WITH THE MONTONEROS. BASED ON PAST EXPERIENCE, IT IS LIKELY THAT IF THESE INDIVIDUALS WERE TAKEN BY THE SECURITY FORCES THEY ARE NOW DEAD.
13. (C) ON THE OTHER HAND, WE KNOW OF SEVEN CASES OF ALLEGED TERRORISTS WHO WOUND UP IN JAIL: THE VERA COUPLES, GUILLEN, BERMUDEZ, AND RUBEN PORTER WHO WAS ARRESTED IN OCTOBER. IN THE VERY RECENT PAST SUCH ACCUSED TERRORISTS WOULD SIMPLY HAVE DISAPPEARED. BECAUSE EVENTS HAVE OFTEN BELIED PAST GOA PROMISES TO END DISAPPEARANCES, EVEN FOR TERRORISTS, WE MUST BE CAUTIOUS ABOUT ANY FIRM CONLUSION THAT THESE SEVEN CASES BE TAKEN AS A DEFINITE CHANGE IN SECURITY FORCE POLICY. WHILE SUCH A PROSPECT IS ENCOURAGING, WE MUST ALSO NOTE THAT THE FAMILY OF RUBEN PORTER NOW ALLEGES THAT THEIR SON WAS TORTURED (WITH CIGARETTE BURNS) WHILE UNDER INTERROGATION. CHAPLIN
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